

March 28, 2000

As his time drew near, posterity sealed, he relented, and thus joined his wife.  
Today we think mainly of First and of Third, on Rushmore and our currency.  
Remember Our Friend, a man of his word, whose heartsleeve was for you and me.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CAPTAIN  
ANTHONY R. STARNER

**HON. JAMES V. HANSEN**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2000*

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the second year that United States Marine Corps Captain Anthony R. Starnier, his wife Ann, and their son Michael were tragically killed in an automobile accident on their way to Michael's baptism. Captain Starnier served his country admirably in many places around the world including: Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Puerto Rico; the Balkans; Estonia; and the United States of America. He was a selfless, well-respected, and caring officer, husband, and father. He and his family are missed by many friends, family members, and loved ones. A flag flew over the Capitol Building yesterday in their honor.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON  
THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2000*

The House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 290) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2000, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2005:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978 provides for the members of the Joint Economic Committee to come before the House and present their views on the current state of the U.S. economy, to serve as input in the debate we are about to have on the budget resolution before us. I rise today to report that while there are many economic achievements to celebrate, there is also a lot more to do in order for everyone to share in the current prosperity.

For the first time since the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act was passed in 1978, the U.S. economy has met the goals which Senator Hubert Humphrey and Congressman Gus Hawkins set out in the original bill: 1. The unemployment rate for individuals over 20 is just 1/2 percentage point above the goal of 3 percent. 2. The unemployment rate for individuals over 16 has met the stated goal of 4 percent. 3. Inflation has remained below the goal of 3 percent since the beginning of

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

the Clinton Administration, 7 years ago. 4. And all of this has been achieved while balancing the federal budget, for the first time in over 40 years.

It is a shame Senator Humphrey and Congressman Hawkins could not witness these achievements.

The great irony is that Senator Humphrey and Congressman Hawkins saw these goals as part of the path toward achieving full employment and balanced economic growth. Today, 20 years later, Alan Greenspan views them as dangerous signs of an overheating economy! I agree with Humphrey and Hawkins—low employment and inflation, and rising wages are always good for an economy.

Currently, unemployment and inflation are low, average wages are rising, and productivity is growing. There is cause to celebrate these achievements, which are due, in large part, to the economic policies of the last 7 years. But the Humphrey-Hawkins bill also called for establishing a national goal to fulfill the RIGHT of all adult Americans who are able, willing and seeking work to find employment at fair compensation. We may have met the numerical targets set out in the bill, we still have a lot to do in order to meet their overarching goal.

Despite the historic economic prosperity we are currently experiencing, the average after-tax income of the wealthiest families continues to grow faster than that for all other Americans, causing the income gap to continue widening. Some of my colleagues like to argue that the tax code should not be used to redistribute income to the poor. Well, I say we should stop using the tax code to redistribute income to the rich, like we have been doing!

Consider the following: Just the richest one percent of Americans—2.7 million people—took home as much after-tax income as the lowest 38 percent—or 100 million people—combined. In 1998, the average income of the wealthiest 20 percent of families was 14 times higher than that of the poorest 20 percent. After adjusting for taxes, the top 20 percent of U.S. households experienced a 43 percent increase in average income from 1977 to 1999, while the average income of the lowest 20 percent experienced a 9 percent decline. In 1999, almost 13 percent of total national after-tax income was concentrated in the top one percent of Americans. As a result of changes in the tax code since 1977, the richest one percent of households, on average, are expected to pay \$40,000 less this year in taxes than they would have paid under the 1977 tax rates.

The foundations for this disparity were laid during the 1980s, when average after-tax income for the wealthiest fifth of households increased by 33 percent.

The Republican budget does nothing to narrow the growing gap between the rich and the poor, and in fact would actually make it worse. Tax breaks for multi-millionaires do not help the millions of average Americans or narrow the gap between the rich and the poor.

In addition, the Republican budget would jeopardize the economic prosperity we are currently enjoying.

In 1992, President Clinton inherited budget deficits for "as far as the eye could see." In contrast to his predecessors, President Clinton

and the Democrats in Congress implemented policies which eliminated the budget deficit. And contrary to what the critics predicted, we balanced the budget while experiencing the longest period of prosperity in U.S. history.

The Republican budget would put all of this in jeopardy. The Republican budget calls for large tax cuts, increases in defense spending, and drastic reductions to non-defense discretionary spending. Where have we heard this before? This precise mix of policies brought us the record budget deficits of the 1980s, which contributed to a decline in living standards for the vast majority of Americans.

My colleagues claim that their budget fixes Social Security and Medicare, creates a prescription drug insurance program, and does all this while keeping the budget in surplus. Well, this sounds like *de ja vu* all over again. To paraphrase this month's testimony of Nobel Laureate Robert Solow before the Joint Economic Committee—if you believe that their budget will do all that, I must be Alice and this must be wonderland.

The Reagan supply-side policies were a complete failure. While a few got rich, the vast majority of American workers and their families suffered as the country was saddled with an enormous debt, which those working families are still paying off.

The nation made the mistake of buying that snake oil once, why should we do it again? I am not about to put the incomes of American families at risk once again, especially as they are just beginning to recover from the last Republican attempt to "save" the economy.

The Republican budget includes a "Bush-lite" tax cut. I must at least give my colleagues some credit for rejecting the full Bush tax cut proposal completely. Their tax cut would only go half as far—which is still way too much. The Republican's current tax cut proposals cost more than the bloated tax cut proposal from last year, which the American people clearly rejected.

There are two fundamental things wrong with their tax proposals. First, they benefit the rich and don't help the vast majority of Americans. Second, these tax cuts, together with the rest of the budget package, are certain to get us back into the mess we were in during the 1980s, which caused real economic hardship on workers and their families.

The Republican budget calls for increasing defense spending by \$17½ billion above the caps, which is even more than the Administration's request. According to the Children's Defense Fund, just this additional spending alone would be enough to: Provide Head Start to 1.7 million additional children; and Provide child care to more than 8 million additional children; and Provide 21st Century After-School programs for close to 35 million additional children.

Just think what we could do for our children if we were willing to forgo just one new major weapon system. In addition to being a budget-buster, excessive defense spending forces us to shift our priorities away from feeding, clothing and educating our children and caring for the sick, the elderly and the poor.

The Republican budget has a solution to this problem—cut non-defense discretionary spending by 6 percent or \$114 billion over 5 years. Where is this money going to come

3811

from? I'll tell you. The Republicans want to drop 310,000 low-income women off of WIC, just next year. The Republicans want to deny child care to over 12,000 children of working parents in 2001. The Republicans want to eliminate Head Start services for more than 40,000 children and their families by 2005. The Republicans want to cut off energy assistance to 164,000 low-income families next year, precisely at the same time oil prices are rising. And the list goes on and on.

The Republicans call their budget "senior-friendly." Well, with friends like them, who needs enemies?

The Republicans set aside \$40 billion for reforming Medicare and establishing a prescription drug program, yet they fail to provide us with the details of how they plan to do so. There are reports that the Republican's prescription drug program would only cover low-income Medicare recipients. Do they actually think that only the poor take prescription drugs? In fact, over half of Medicare beneficiaries who lack prescription drug coverage have incomes above 150 percent of poverty. The cost of prescription drugs is the fastest growing part of health care, and it affects all Americans. We must establish a comprehensive prescription drug plan which covers all seniors, regardless of income, as they are the ones suffering the most from rising drug costs.

The Republicans claim to put aside funds to shore-up Social Security. But in fact, if they do everything they promise, the Republican budget will actually spend the Social Security surplus. We need to protect Social Security, not put it under any more risk. It seems like everyone has learned the clear lessons of the last 7 years except my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Over the last 20 years we have put off addressing some of the major economic problems affecting American workers and their families. Now, during this time of unprecedented prosperity, it is time to begin dealing with these issues. If we can't do it now, then when can we?

Instead of debating tax cuts which favor the rich and will put us back in the fiscal straight-jacket of massive debt, we should be discussing how to provide quality health care for all Americans, while controlling costs.

We should be discussing ways to protect the most vulnerable Americans—the sick and the elderly. We should pass a strong patient's bill of rights, which includes a patient's right to sue for damages, that is not cynically loaded with poison bills—like Medical Savings Accounts, which are nothing more than tax cuts for the rich.

We should raise the minimum wage without having to buy-off the wealthy by providing them close to \$80 billion in estate tax cuts. Working full-time at the current minimum wage is not even enough to keep a family of 3 or 4 out of poverty. Raising the minimum wage is long overdue and should be done with no conditions attached.

For these reasons and others, I urge my colleagues to reject the Republican budget resolution.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2000*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 290) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2000, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2005:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in strong opposition to the Budget Resolution for FY 2001 (H. Con. Res. 290). For the third consecutive year Republicans have chosen to provide large tax breaks for the wealthy. This Budget Resolution provides at least \$200 billion in tax breaks over the next five years for the financial elite of America. Furthermore, this resolution is a major down payment for George W. Bush's proposed trillion-dollar tax scheme. I will not standby while our children's future is bankrupted to fund this irresponsible Budget Resolution.

This budget contains deep cuts in domestic spending by \$114 billion over the next five years; fails to provide anything to strengthen Social Security or Medicare; cuts nondefense discretionary spending by \$19.7 billion in 2001 and \$138 billion over the next five years below the level needed to maintain purchasing power after adjusting for inflation; and pretends to reserve \$40 billion for a Medicare prescription drug benefit contingent upon essentially turning Medicare into a voucher program. Republicans have used slight of hand to hide the facts of their irresponsible budget by showing the effects of proposed tax cuts for only the first five years and not the full ten year projections commonly used during the last four years.

I am disappointed in the Budget Resolution because I do not believe that it provides adequate investment in our nation's future. America's future depends on that of her young people—in providing them adequate resources and opportunities to become our future leaders including providing them education and access to adequate health care.

The Budget resolution provides inadequate resources for the education of our young people. I firmly believe that we must focus our attention and our energy on one of the most important challenges facing our country today—revitalizing our education system. Strengthening education must be a top priority to raise the standard of living among American families and to prolong this era of American economic expansion. Education will prepare our nation for the challenges of the 21st century, and I will fight to ensure that the necessary programs are adequately funded to ensure our children's success.

We must provide our children access to superior education at all ages from kindergarten to graduate school. Recent studies emphasize

*March 28, 2000*

the importance of quality education early in a child's future development. And yet despite these studies, the Budget Resolution still inadequately funds programs that would provide for programs targeting children in their younger years.

In addition, we need to open the door of educational opportunity to all American children. It is well known that increases in income are related to educational attainment. The Democratic budget alternative rejects the Republican freeze on education funding and allocates \$4.8 billion more for education for FY 2001, than the Republican budget. Over five years, the Democratic Party demonstrates its commitment to education by proposing \$21 billion more than the Republican Budget Resolution.

The Congressional Black Caucus ("CBC") will offer an amendment in the nature of a substitute that promises to invest for the future of our nation. The CBC substitute is a budget that maximizes investment and opportunity for the poor, African Americans, and other minorities. This Budget for Maximum Investment and Opportunity supports a moderate plan to pay down the national debt; protects Social Security; and makes significant investments in education and training.

The CBC budget requests \$88.8 billion in FY 2001 for education, training, and development. This is \$32 billion more than the Republican budget provides. The CBC substitute will propose a \$10 billion increase over the President's Budget for school construction. Other projected increases include additional funding for Head Start, Summer Youth Employment TRIO programs, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Community Technology Centers. In an age of unprecedented wealth the CBC has the vision to invest in the American family and not squander opportunities afforded by a budget surplus.

I will not support the failed policies of the past. Senator McCain has best characterized this Budget Resolution as one that is "fiscally irresponsible." I support a budget that invest strengthening Social Security; provides an affordable prescription drug benefit for all seniors; helps communities improve public education with quality teachers, smaller classes, greater accountability and modern schools; and pay down the national debt. These are the policies that invest in our children and in the future of our nation in the 21st century.

## TRIBUTE TO RICHARD ROTH

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2000*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I honor an individual whose dedication to the community and the overall well-being of the 43rd Congressional District is notable. On April 1st, Mr. Richard Roth, will step down as the Chair of the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce—a day that also marks Chamber's 100 year anniversary of service to the community. My district has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly give their time and talents to promote